

Applicants : Kok Liang TAN and Hong Meng LIM
U.S. Serial No.: Not Yet Known
Filed : Herewith
Page : 3

In The Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) An orthodontic appliance comprising:
a base portion (8) adapted for bonding to a surface of a tooth,
a body portion extending from the base portion (8) and having an archwire receiving means and a first narrowing (5) forming a neck portion with said base portion (8) and provided substantially rear of the archwire receiving means,
the archwire receiving means having a slot (3) substantially adapted to receive a portion of an archwire (4) and having an opening (9) comprising a second narrowing portion which is narrower than the slot (3).
2. (Original) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second narrowing portion is provided along a length and / or opening of the archwire receiving means.
3. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the second narrowing is provided at at least one point along a length and / or opening of the archwire receiving means.
4. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ wherein the second narrowing portion is at least one protrusion or rib (2).
5. (Original) An orthodontic appliance comprising:
a base portion (8) adapted for bonding to a surface of a tooth,
a body portion extending from the base portion (8) and having an archwire receiving means and a first narrowing (5) forming a neck portion with said base portion (8) and provided substantially rear of the archwire receiving means,

Applicants : Kok Liang TAN and Hong Meng LIM
U.S. Serial No.: Not Yet Known
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Page : 4

the archwire receiving means having a slot (3) substantially adapted to receive a portion of an archwire (4) and having an opening (9) comprising an enlarged portion which is broader than the slot (3).

6. (Original) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 5, wherein the enlarged portion is provided along a length and / or opening (9) of the archwire receiving means.

7. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the enlarged portion is provided as one or more points along a length and / or breadth of the archwire receiving means.

8. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in ~~any one of claims 5 to 7~~, wherein the enlarged portion is at least one protrusion or rib (2).

9. (Currently Amended) An orthodontic appliance as claimed in claim 1 ~~any one of the preceding claims~~, wherein the appliance is an orthodontic bracket.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for straightening teeth with an orthodontic appliance according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~, comprising the steps of:

- bonding a base portion of the appliance to a surface of a tooth;
- coupling an archwire to said orthodontic appliance, including
 - placing the archwire proximate an archwire receiving means, and
 - moving the archwire into contact with either a narrowing portion of the archwire receiving means or an enlarged portion of the receiving means; and
 - pushing said archwire substantially past said narrowing portion or enlarged portion.

Applicants : Kok Liang TAN and Hong Meng LIM
U.S. Serial No.: Not Yet Known
Filed : Herewith
Page : 5

11. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein the orthodontic appliance is an appliance ~~as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9.~~ comprising:

a base portion (8) adapted for bonding to a surface of a tooth,

a body portion extending from the base portion (8) and having an archwire receiving means and a first narrowing (5) forming a neck portion with said base portion (8) and provided substantially rear of the archwire receiving means,

the archwire receiving means having a slot (3) substantially adapted to receive a portion of an archwire (4) and having an opening (9) comprising a second narrowing portion which is narrower than the slot (3).

12. (Original) An appliance substantially as herein disclosed.

13. (Original) A method substantially as herein disclosed.